[Shri Chimanbhai Mehta]

Assam the rates are fixed at Rs. 500 per 1,000 cuble metres and the maximum rate is Rs. 1,000 per 1,000 cubic metres. The same should be applied to the backward areas also to save the backward areas from this calamity.

Madam, this is a very important thing that I am submitting before the Ministry of Petroleum and I hope they would reconsider and fix the prices anew so that such a huge burden is not placed on the industries. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re. Minimum support prices in respect of kharif pulses and oilseeds of 1987-88 crop.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): Sir, the Government have fixed the minimum support prices of kharif pulses namely Urad, Moong and Tur (Arhar) of 1987-88 Crop at Rs. 325 per quintal each marking an increase of Rs. 5 per quintal over the corresponding price for the produce of 1986-87 crop.

2. As in the 1986-87 season, State Co-operative Marketing Agencies have been authorised to purchase pulses during 1987-88 if offered at the minimum support price with the assurance that NAFED would lift the pulses so purchased, should the State Agencies be unable to market the same within the State.

3. It has been the endeavour of the Government to provide incentives to the farmers to step up the production and productivity of oilseeds. Accordingly the minimum support price of Groundnut-in-Shell of 1987-88 crop has been fixed at Rs. 390 per quintal, marking an increase of Rs. 20 per quintal over the previous year's level.

4. The minimum support price of Soyabean (Yellow) of 1987-88 crop shall be Rs. 300 per quintal as against Rs. 290 for the last year. The minimum support price of Soyabean (Black) has been increased by Rs. 5 and fixed at Rs. 260 per quintal for the 1987-88 season.

5. We are keen to provide encouragement and incentives to the farmers for taking up and expanding the cultivation of new and up-coming oilseeds. Accordingly the minimum support price of Sunflower of 1987-88 crop has been fixed at Rs. 390 per quintal which marks a substantial increase of Rs. 40 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous year.

6. I am sure that the incentives offered by the Government in terms of a substantial increase in minimum support prices will enthuse our farmers to achieve rapid increases in productivity and production of oilseeds and pulses.

Thank you.

SHRI B. SATYANARAIN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, as a matter of fact, we are facing a crisis as far as oilseeds and other pulses are concerned because the farmers have not been given special incetives to produc more oilseeds and other pulses. The dict of the majority of our people is pulses. The farmer is looking to other items of production to get more money. If the Government fails to give special incentives and proper prices, then, the farmers may give up the cultivation of these pulses.

The Minister has said that so far as the important pulses, *urad, moong* and *tur (arhar)* are concerned, for 1986-87 the increase per quintal is only Rs. 5. I would not think that this would suffice, that this would encourage the farmer to bring more and more land under the cultivation of these pulses. I request the Minister to seriously think and come to the aid of the farmers so that they bring more and more land under the cultivation of these pulses, especially *urad moong* and *tur* because these are very important items consumed by the common man.

Then, as far as groundnut is concerned, of course, he said that the increase

would be Rs. 20 per quintal over the previous year. Then, this also, I think, is due to the drought conditions in the country. People need more help. the farmers need more help to cultivate this crop. They need irrigation facilities, they need other inputs which should be supplied at cheaper rates. So, I want to know whether the Government is thinking to have a concrete plan to go to the help of these farmers who are engaged in the cultivation of groundnuts and other pulses.

Then, as far as soyabean and other itemas are concerned, I do not think that this will really give any encouragement to the farmers to bring more and more land under their cultivation. The Government must revise its policy, and it must provide proper pride, remunerative price, that will encourage the farmers to bring more land under the cultivation of these crops. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government have any agreed plans to encourage the farmers to bring more and more land under the cultivation of pulses and oilseeds. Simply by increasing Rs. 5 or Rs. 20 would not help. This policy will not encourage the farmers. So, the Government must have a concrete plan to encourage the farmers to bring more land under the cultivation of the pulses and oilseeds.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Virendra Verma—absent.

श्री धन श्याम सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदया, पहले मैं इस बात के लिए प्रसन्नता प्रदर्शित करना चाहता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने कम से कम इस आवश्यकता को समझा कि खरीफ की फसलों के मूल्य और दालों के मूल्य बुआई से पहले घोषित करने की चेष्टा की है। लेकिन इन मूल्य को देखने से मुझ जैसा किसान जो दालों की पैदावार करने में दिलचस्पी रखता है, तिलहनों की पैदावार करने में दिलचस्पी रखता है, कुछ निराशा जैसी लगी है। आप बाजार में दालों के भाव देखिये। 6 और 7 रुपये किलो के हिसाब से दालें बिक रही हैं। लेकिन आप किसान को 325 रु० के हिसाब से समर्थन मूल्य देना चाहते हैं और इस समर्थन मूल्य के आधार पर किसानों से अपेक्षा करते हैं कि वे खरीफ में ज्यादा से ज्यादा दालें पैदा करें ताकि देश की दालों की समस्या हल हो सके। मेरा ख्याल है और यह व्यक्तिगत ख्याल है कि इस समर्थन मूल्य से कुछ निराशा ही हुई है क्योंकि बाजार में दालें ज्यादा भाव पर बिक रही है। माननीय मंत्री जी कहेंगे कि ये तो सपोर्ट प्राइस है, बाजार में ज्यादा भाव बिक रही न तो यह अच्छी बात है। मेरा कहना यह है कि सरकार की नीति किसानों को रिम्युनरेटिव प्राइस देने की है। इसलिए किसान यह देखता है कि सरकार उसकी जमीन को किस तरीके से देखती है। हम किसान से दालें पैदा करने के लिए कहें, तिलहन पैदा करने के लिए कहें, लेकिन किसान को यह देखना पड़ता है कि सरकार ने उसके भाव क्या निश्चित किये हैं। मैं स्वयं एक किसान हूं। जब सरकार की नीति किसानों को रिम्यनरेटिव प्राइस देने की है तो जब आप इन चीजों के भाव निश्चित करते हैं तो क्या आप किसानों की कास्ट के मुताबिक ये भाव निश्चित करते हैं? इसके साथ ही में यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि इन चीजों के भाव निश्चित करने के लिए आपने जो मशीनरी बना रखी है क्या उसने कोई आंकड़े भी प्रस्तुत किये हैं जिसके आधार पर आपने ये भाव निश्चित किये हैं? क्या आपने किसानों की कास्ट को भी ध्यान में रखा है? मैं थोड़ा यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि इस संबंध में आपकी जो मशीनरी है वह इस तरह से लड़खड़ा कर चल रही है कि वह किसानों के नजरिये को देखती ही नहीं है। अगर आप उत्पादन बढ़ाना चाहते हैं तो आपको किसानों के नजरिये को भी ध्यान में रखना होगा। अगर आप किसानों के नजरिये को ध्यान में नहीं

[श्री घनश्याम सिंह]

रखेंगे तो आप किसानों को कितनी बड़ी टेक्नोलोजी दीजिये, कोई और तरीका दीजिये, किसान उत्पादन बढ़ाने वाला नहीं हैं। इसलिए किसानों द्वारा पैदा की जाने वाली चीजों के भाव तय करते समय किसानों के नजरिये को भी ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिये ताकि किसान आपकी नीतियों के अनुरूप उत्पादन बढ़ा सके। मैं चाहता हूं कि आप इन चीजों को भी करने की कृपा करें।

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): I am quite unsatisfied with the fixation of the enhanced price announced by the hon. Minister. The policy of the Government is not helpful to the farmers. If you go througn the production figures you can easily find it out. The area under pulses cultivation has always been constant for the last ten years. It is rainging around 22 million hectares. Similarly the area of the land under oilseed cultivation is also 18 million hectares. At the same time, unfortunately, the production of oilseeds is declining. Earlier it was 12.8 and in 1985-86 it has decreased to 11.15. You know well the pulses are necessary to keep our puls in order. Its production also has not increased to the extent it is required. The most alarming fact is that per capita availability of pulses is declining to an abnormal level. In 1956 the per capita availability of pulses was 7.33 grammes. Now, it has been reduced to 4.00. How it has fallen down to that extent? Because we have not adopted proper measures for the improvment of pulses production. Not only that we have not fixed remunerative prices for our farmers. We have not encouraged our farmers to increase pulses production. So far as the oilseeds production, is concerned, the position is same. The prices are not remunerative for oilseeds also. Therefore, Government must reconsider the policy and programme for increased pulses and oilseeds production. I hope the Minister will come out with a proposal at least in future to fix the remunerative prices for the produce of our farmers.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to seek two clarifications from the hon. Minister. We are all aware that pulses and oilseeds are cultivated mostly by small farmers. These crops are cultivated in dry land. That is why this is being done only by the small farmers. They have no holding capacity. As soon as they produce the crop they have to sell immediately. The support price given by the Government to the small farmers is very much less. Big farmers they can have holding power whereas small farmers have no holding power. They immediately sell their produce in the market. In view of this situation, will Government consider to increase support price for pulses and oilseeds?

Secondly, so far as oilseeds are concerned, the area under irrigated cultivation has gone up from 12 to 18 per cent. But oilseeds production has gone down. For example, production of pulses what it was in 1974-75 is not same today. These are high risk crops. May I know from the Minister whether the Government will consider extending crop insurance scheme to these two crops throughout the country instead of some districts? In the case of marginal farmers, the insurance Premium is charged at 50 per cent. May I know from the Minister whether for these two crops insurance will be free? Then only people will take risk and cultivate these two crops. I would like the Minister to answer these two questions.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Madam Deputy Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to make some observations. I am working among the rural areas as well as in the industrial areas. I know that the support

price announced by the Minister is not that much appreciated. The support price is one thing and remunerative price is something else. In 1976, some ten years back, I had led on agitation for raising the support price of groundnut. The support price that was fixed at that time was Rs. 100 per quintal. Today, it is fixed at Rs. 390 per quintal. It is four times higher than what it was some ten years back. That aspect has to be kept in mind. On the one hand, urban people talk about rise in prices of edible oils and on the other hand our farmers don't get remunerative prices. This is the paradox of our Indian situation. One of the things is that infrastructure costs of fertilisers, electricity, crude oil, seeds and whatever input goes in the agricultural production are also very high. I know that fertilisers are very costly therefore, we import. Electricity prices are very high compared to other countries but comparison with other countries all the time will not help. How to economise on infrastructure is very important. In the mean while, Government also may have to consider rising prices of these essential commodities and how to give relief to the urban people. While giving remunerative prices and moving towards that direction, I think, the Agriculture Minister has done some good efforts but something more is required. That is my comment.

श्री नत्था सिंह (राजस्थान) : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं राजस्थान का किसान हूं । मैं खेती करता हूं इसलिए इस संबंध में मैं दो मिनट में कहना चाहता हूं । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि आपने जो मूंग और उड़द की कीमत पांच रुपये बढाई है यानी 320 रुपये से 325 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल की है क्या आपने कभी यह जांच की है कि किसान जो मूंगफली पैदा करता है, मूंग पैदा करता है, उड़द पैदा करता है, वह उस में कितनी मेंहनत करता है । मेहनत कर के फसल को तैयार कर के बाजार में लाता है तो उसकी फसल 325 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल के हिसाब से बिकती है और बीच के लोग मुनाफाखोर लोग जो हैं 325 रुपये क्विंटल के हिसाब से खरीद कर अपने घरों में गोदामों में भर लेते हैं और फिर आम जनता को जब देते हैं तो सात-आठ रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के हिसाब से मूंग और उड़द आदि की दाल देते हैं । कुछ लोग तकरीबन दुगुना मुनाफा कमा लेते हैं । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो आपने 325 रुपये तय किया है । इतनी तो किसान की लागत पैदा करने में लग जाती है । इससे किसान के हाथ पल्ले कुछ नहीं पड़ता है । इसलिए मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा कि इसकी छानबीन करें । यह जो आपने रेट बढ़ाया है यह तो ना के बराबर है । किसानों को उतना ही मुनाफा मिलना चाहिए जितना व्यापारी लोग अपनी दूकानों में गोदामों में भर कर मुनाफा कमाते हैं । आम लोगों को जो देते हैं और जितने में वे खरीदते हैं उसमें थोड़ा फर्क होना चाहिए, इतना नहीं होना चाहिए । इतना कह कर मैं आपसे क्षमा चाहता हूं ।

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am so grateful for the points taken up by the hon. Members. The basic question is that we are short of production in pulses and oil-seeds. There is no denying about it. About the pulses, I have already said that these prices are fixed by the Agriculture Commission on Costs and Prices. In spite of that, whatever they recommended, we increased the prices over and above their recommendation. As I have mentioned a number of times in this House, the Agriculture Commission on Costs and Prices have certain criteria, certain norms over which they assess these prices and they include in that a number of factors. Besides the cost, they include value of human labour, bullock labour, hired bullock labour, machinery charges, machine labour, seeds, both home and purchased, value of insecticides and pesticides farm-yard manure, chemical fertili-

[Shri G. S. Dhillon]

zers, depreciation and implements, irrigation charges, land revenue, cesses and other taxes, interest and working capital, miscellaneous expenses and similarly, some other charges. But the basic question that is asked by Mr. Aladi Aruna, the basic question that is at the back of the honourable Member's mind, is. How are we going to increase this area? How are we going to make up this deficiency? How are we going to increase the per capita income? In the new Agriculture Policy that I have placed before this House in the last Session we are committed to increasing production of oilseeds and pulses. How to do it? The only factor is that we are trying to emphasise a new pattern of agriculture. We are trying to lay less emphasis on wheat and paddy and more emphasis on oilseeds and pulses. As you might have been already aware, we have a special programme for dry land areas and new technology to be adopted to these dry land areas. We are also now contemplating dividing the country on agroclimatic basis—classification of lands for what they are suited particularly, going beyond State boundaries. We are thinking of having something like that and I may soon be coming before you as soon as we are able to finalise it. I do not deny, I am one with you that we are very short of pulses. The only way-out is to take the benefit of our experience at the time of the Green Revolution in wheat and paddy. We were importing it from other countries. But later on we set up the price pattern and as soon as we made up that price deficiency, that price difference, it gave a big impetus, a big incentive, to growing wheat and paddy. We are going to repeat the same experience in the case of oil and pulses. We intend to do away with the import of oilseeds, oil, from outside in three years' time. I am very sure that by 1990 we will be able to completely stop the imports. It may be 18 lakhs and later on by the end of the century it may be 26 lakhs; some estimates are 24, others 26. Similarly, about pulses I may have to admit that in the case of research on pulses, in spite of our best efforts we have not been able to make much headway. Some Australians came to us and they gave us their figures about pulses. They talked to me. They said they have plenty of land but they do not know how to utilise it. There is no tradition of pulses in their country. We are going to consult them. We are going to adopt some sort of technology so that we make some headway. For the present we are laying more emphasis on shift-over to oilseeds and pulses and less emphasis on other traditional crops like cereals. Let us hope that we come out with certain definite results in course of time...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: What concrete measures are being taken by the Government to bring more and more land under cultivation of pulses and oilseeds?

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: That is what our programme is, that is what is in our mind — to lay more emphasis on oilseeds, give more incentives for pulses. I have already pointed out that during the last five years, we have, in respect of grams, given incentives to almost 100 per cent and, in arhar it has been quite a success, that is, 93 per cent and in urad, it is 82 per cent. Our incentives have increased by this much of percentage and it is not a bad performance from 1980 to 1986.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: How much of land has been brought under cultivation?

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: Mr. Reddy, the basic matter is to change the traditional pattern to fit in with the new technology and new research. I can only say that the farmer may not be satisfied and I do not deny it.

But I have seen the ruling prices to be much higher than the minimum support price or the procurement price; they have ruled much higher. So far they have not come down. We have this Commission now and, as I told this House the other day, there was only one farmers' representative on this Commission. I have now decided—and I am very glad that the Cabinet has also approved of this proposal — that there shall be three farmers' representatives, again three experts, and, besides these people, there will be a Chairman and he will not be an official, but he will be an eminent agronomist. Mr. Verma, I think you asked me about this the other day. Now there will be a good number. We were short of membership since the last two years and we had to make this recommendation and we had to make these additions. When the Commission comes into being next week or within ten days, we will have some relief because more experience and expertise will be flowingin. Thank you very much.

THE COTTON, COPRA AND VEGETABLE OILS CESS (ABOLITION) BILL, 1987

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister to move the Bill for consideration.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Produce Cess Act, 1966 and the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979, and to repeal the Copra Cess Act, 1979 and the Vegetable Oils Cess Act, 1983, as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration."

Madam, the Finance Minister, in his Budget speech in February 1986, had indicated that as an endavour to reduce the number of cesses, it had been decided to dispense with the cess on cotton, copra and vegetable oils, and the Cotton, Copra and Vegetable Oils Cess (Abolition) Bill, 1986 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 8th December 1986 with a view to abolishing these cesses.

Madam, at present, the cess on cotton is being levied under the Produce Cess Act, 1966, the cess on copra is being levied under the Copra Cess Act, 1979 and the cess on vegetable oils is being levied under the Vegetable Oils Cess Act, 1983. The proceeds of the cess on cotton are to be utilized to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with the development of produce under the Produce Cess Act, 1966 which includes cotton. The cess on copra is the main source of finances for the Coconut Development Board and the cess on vegetable oils for the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board. The requirements of funds for the development of cotton and for the Coconut Development Board and the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board will be met through budgetary allocation and the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board and the Coconut Development Board will get adequate support. For the abolition of cess on cotton, the Bill seeks to amend the Produce Cess Act, 1966 and for the abolition of the cess on copra and vegetable oils, the Copra Cess Act, 1979 and the Vegetable Oils Cess Act, 1983, respectively are sought to be repealed.

I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The question was proposed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Narayan Kar.

*SHRI NARAYAN KAR (TRIPURA): Madam Deputy Chairman, the Hon. Minister has moved the

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*English translation of the original speech delivered in Bangla.